

Grant of leave to Mr. M. O. Oommen, Divisional Forest Officer, Quilon.

178. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI (Trivandrum):** With reference to the statement made in the Legislative Council in the last Budget session on behalf of the Government, that Mr. M. O. Oommen, Divisional Forest Officer, Quilon, would be asked to take leave, will they be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mr. Oommen has taken leave; and
- (b) if the answer to part (a) is in the negative, why he has not taken leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (Ag. Secretary to Government): (a) No.
(b) Mr. Oommen did not take leave as he was subject to asthma only during the dewy season and not during the rainy season. It is further reported that he had a complete course of injection for asthma at Madras during the last Christmas holidays and that he is quite free from the disease now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (Trivandrum): In the answer it is stated that Mr. Oommen had a complete course of injection for asthma, at Madras, during the last Christmas holidays, that he is quite free from the disease now and that he is subject to asthma only during the dewy season and not during the rainy season. The Conservator has told us in the last Budget session that he had asked Mr. Oommen to take leave from the commencement of this year. Now, the answer is that he is subject to the disease only during the dewy season and not in the rainy season. Can the present statement be reconciled with the statement made by Conservator of Forests in Adi last?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (Ag. Secretary to Government): Government will ask the Conservator about that again.

Leave to Mr. M. O. Oommen, Divisional Forest Officer, Quilon.

179. **MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon):** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. M. O. Oommen still (16.4.1107) continues to be the Divisional Forest Officer, Quilon; and
- (b) whether the Conservator of Forests required him to go on leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (Ag. Secretary to Government): (a) Yes.

(b) The Conservator advised Mr. Oommen to go on leave for some time to recoup his health.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): With reference to part (b), may I know whether, asking the Divisional Forest Officer to take leave is the same, according to Government, as advising him to take leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (Ag. Secretary to Government): The Conservator of Forests advised Mr. Oommen to take leave, personally as well as in writing.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I refer the member to the answer given by the Conservator to a question put by Mr. Thanu Pillai? I may refer to the *Legislative Council Proceedings*, Vol. XIX, No. 9, page 626. Mr. Thanu Pillai has stated:

"We do not want the explanation from the Conservator. The officer should have been asked to take leave."

In answer to that, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has said:

"Yes; he has been asked to take leave as soon as the current year is over."

Also, towards the end of the discussion when the question was about to be put to vote, the Deputy President has stated:

"He said that he has been asked to take leave and that the other question would be enquired into."

May I point out to Government that the motion was withdrawn on the specific understanding that Mr. Oommen, who had been admittedly guilty of dereliction of duty, would be asked to take leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Conservator asked Mr. Oommen to take leave; but Mr. Oommen did not apply for leave, as directed by the Conservator, because his health had improved by that time. There was no necessity for him to take leave then.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know when the Conservator asked him to take leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It was subsequent to the discussion during the last Budget session.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I again refer the member to the answer of the Conservator in which he says that he had already asked Mr. Oommen to take leave?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Mr. Oommen had been asked to take leave also before the discussion here.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Conservator was satisfied with the statement by the Divisional Forest Officer that he was quite all right?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I have no objection to the member drawing that inference.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether they asked for medical certificate?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no record to show that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether he was asked to go before the Medical Board?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Conservator is satisfied that the Divisional Forest Officer is doing his touring and other work properly now?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Conservator says that there is slight improvement in his touring work now.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): May I know what is the degree of improvement suggested?

PRESIDENT: That is going beyond the question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): It is quite relevant Sir, because the member says that there is slight improvement now in the work of Mr. Oommen.

PRESIDENT: Your last question goes far beyond the main question.

Recovery of process fees for effecting attachment and sale of property for arrears of tax.

180. MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli): Will the Government be pleased to state the rate at which costs are realised from defaulting tax-payers for effecting attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (Ag. Secretary to Government): The required information is given below:—

Items.	Rate.
1. Fee for demand (either under Section 7 or Section 23 A of the Regulation) ...	4 chs. per demand.
2. Fee for the distraint and sale of movables—to meet the cost of the labour of the Revenue staff in distraining and selling the movables ...	8 chs. per case.
3. Fee for the attachment and sale of immovables—to meet the cost of labour of the Revenue staff in attaching and selling immovables ...	14 chs. per case.
4. Tom-tom charges—to give due publicity of the intended sale of the property distrained or attached ...	21 chs. per diem for the Municipal town of Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Parur and for hilly tracts (as defined in the T. S. R.) and 14 chs. per diem for other places in the low country. This is to be recovered over and above the rate of 8 chs. or 14 chs., as the case may be, mentioned above.
5. Transport charges, such as hire of boats, carts, head loads, coolies, etc. ...	At the rates prescribed in the Account Code, Part I.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (Karunagapalli): In regard to item (1), may I know for what purpose the demand fee of four chuckrams is realised? Is it by way of penalty, or for costs incurred by Government?